BERMAN O'CONNOR & MANN Suite 503 Bank of Guam Bldg. 111 Chalan Santo Papa 2 DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM Hagatna, Guam 96932 Telephone: (671) 477-2778 3 JAN 19 2007 4 Mark S. Smith, Esq. MARY L.M. MORAN THE LAW OFFICES OF MARK S. SMITH **CLERK OF COURT** 456 West O'Brien Drive, Suite 102-D Hagåtña, Guam 96910 Telephone: (671) 477-6631 7 Attorneys for Defendant: 8 WEN YÜEH LU 9 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 FOR THE DISTRICT OF GUAM 11 MAGISTRATE CASE NO. 06-00031 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 12 13 Plaintiff, 14 VS. **MOTION TO DISMISS: or** 15 in the alternative TO SUPPRESS WEN YUEH LU, EVIDENCE FOR DESTRUCTION 16 Defendant. OF EVIDENCE 17 MOTION TO DISMISS; or in The Alternative 18 TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE FOR DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE 19 COMES NOW Defendant Wen Yueh Lu, through counsel undersigned, 20 and respectively moves the Honorable Court for an order granting the Defendant's 21 Motion to Dismiss; or, in the alternative, to suppress evidence that relates to the 22 Government's destruction of evidence. Defendant's motion is based upon the 23 memorandum and support herein, prior orders and record herein. In support of this 24 motion, Defendant relies upon the authorities filed herein below. 25 26 27 28 E:\Jean\Plds\DJB\Wen Lu v. Hon. Rapadas\Mtn Dismiss.wpd

1	U.S.A. v. WEN YUEH LU PAGE 2 MOTION TO DISMISS; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE
2	TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE FOR DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE
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4	POINTS AND AUTHORITIES
5	BACKGROUND FACTS
6	On September 9, 2006, Defendant Wen Yueh Lu and his vessel Marshalls 201
7	upon which he was the captain was forcibly brought into the Port of Guam pursuant to
8	the U.S. Government's investigation of illegal fishing.
9	On October 2, 2006, the Government seized and removed the Defendant Wen
10	Yueh Lu and Marshalls 201 laptop computer INMARSAT C (herein "INMARSAT
11	Computer") from the vessel Marshalls 201. <u>See</u> , Attorney Berman letter dated October
12	4, 2006 to U.S. Attorney, p. 1, footnote 1, Exhibit "A", attached.
13	On October 4, 2006, Defendant requested in writing that the Government provide
14	a evidence tag or receipt for the seized INMARSAT Computer. Exhibit "A".
15	Notwithstanding the written request for acknowledgment, evidenced tag or
16	receipt, U.S. Government offered no response whatsoever.
17	On October 5, 2006, the Marshalls 201 and its Captain Defendant Wen Yueh Lu
18	were formerly arrested in Guam.
19	On October 13, 2006, Defendant's counsel requested in writing that the
20	INMARSAT C computer which was seized by the Government, be promptly returned
21	to Defendant. See, Attorney Berman letter dated October 13, 2006, p. 1, ¶A, no. 3,
22	attached Exhibit "B".
23	On November 22, 2006, the Government returned the destroyed INMARSAT C
24	Computer to Defendant's counsel in Guam. <u>See</u> , color photographs broken INMARSAT
25	C computer, attached Exhibit "C".
26	On December 7 and 8, 2006, Defendant Lu testified under oath in Deposition to
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U.S.A. v. WEN YUEH LU MOTION TO DISMISS; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE FOR DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

his complaint that the Government had taken and destroyed his INMARSAT C computer. See, Deposition Lu, excerpt pp. 67-72, attached Exhibit "D".

On December 9, 2006, Defendant Wen Yueh Lu was arrested on charges based on this Magistrate Complaint.

On December 29, 2006, the Government provided its selected discovery in 1 DVD-Rom disc.

On January 9, 2007, Defendant Lu requested in writing that the INMARSAT C computer be restored or repaired, or otherwise Defendant would bring a Motion to Dismiss the case. See, Attorney Smith letter dated January 9, 2007, p. 2, ¶C, no. 16 (Notice Motion to Dismiss), attached Exhibit "E".

Thereafter to present, the Government has provided no response to the destruction of this valuable exculpatory evidence.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The United States Supreme Court recognized that due process rights are implicated when potentially exculpatory evidence has been lost or destroyed by the Government. *Arizona v. Youngblood*, 448 U.S. 51, 109 S. Ct. 333, 337 (1988), *citing Lisenba v. California*, 314 U.S. 219, 236 (1941). In *Youngblood* the Court held that in order for a criminal defendant to establish a denial of the due process, he or she must show bad faith on the part of the prosecution in failing to preserve such evidence and that the destroyed evidence is favorable to the defense. *Id*; *California v. Trombetta*, 467 U.S. 479, 489 (1984); *May v. Collins*, 935 F. 2d 299, 315 (5th Cir. 1992), *citing Brady v. Maryland*, 373

E: Jean\Plds\DJB\Wen Lu v. Hon. Rapadas\Mtn Dismiss.wpd

U.S. 83, 87 (1963).

TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE FOR DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

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In *United States v. Boyd*, 961 F. 2d 434, 435-437 (3d Cir. 1992), the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit reviewed a similar claim where the Government destroyed a defendant's positive urine test before it could be subjected to an independent defense examination. Although the court indicated that the defendant's argument appeared to "have some merit," it held that no bad faith existed because the specimen was destroyed pursuant to the standard procedure of an independent (non government) laboratory which conducted the test. Id. At 437.

It is presently unknown to the defense why exactly the subject evidence was destroyed. Likewise, the defense does not know if the destruction was undertaken pursuant to a standard NOAA or Coast Guard policy. It is undisputable, however, that even if the destruction occurred prior to this Court's Standing Discovery Order, the prosecution must have anticipated that the defense would seek to use - as well as inspect and analyze the original working laptop computer INMARSAT C.

After the October 4, 2006, Defendant written request that an evidence tag or receipt be provided for the seized INMARSAT C computer, the Marshalls 201 and its captain Defendant Wen Yueh Lu were formally arrested. This appears a retaliatory motive. To further this particular motivation, after the December 7 and 8, 2006 deposition by Defendant Lu that asserted his complaint that the government had taken and destroyed his INMARSAT C laptop computer, together with photographs of the computer submitted in deposition, the Government on December 9, 2006 filed for the first time a criminal charge solely against Defendant Lu and arrested Lu at the airport. This is odd because the Captain Defendant Lu and his crew were all released and free to go after the vessel Marshalls 201 was released on October 13, 2006 based upon the

1 2	U.S.A. v. WEN YUEH LU MOTION TO DISMISS; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE FOR DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE	
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4	deposit of a reasonable bond. It is respectfully submitted that bad faith can be found	
5	under these circumstances of repeated retaliation.	
6	The prejudice which has accrued to the Defendant as a result of the destruction	
7	of the evidence is patent. The Defendant has been stripped of the ability to effectively	
8	counter the erroneous tracking coordinates undertaken by the Coast Guard and NOAA.	
9	Accordingly, it would be fundamentally unfair to permit the Government to go forward	
10	with the charge of "Refusal to Stop" on September 9, 2006 when Defendant's evidence	
11	of his precise location and track was destroyed by the Government. At the very least,	
12	the Government should be precluded from utilizing the flawed and erroneous Coast	
13	Guard and NOAA evidence of location and track of Defendant and Marshalls 201.	
14	CONCLUSION	
15	Based on the foregoing arguments and authorities, this Court is respectfully	
16	urged to dismiss the Complaint, or to enter an Order precluding the Government from	
17	offering any evidence regarding the locations and track of the Marshalls 201 and	
18	Defendant Lu in September 2006, because the onboard laptop INMARSAT C Computer	
19	was intentionally destroyed by the Government.	
20	Dated this 19th day of January, 2007.	
21	Respectfully submitted,	
2223	Attorneys for Petitioner/Defendant: WEN YUEH LU	
24	BERMAN O'CONNOR & MANN	
25	THE LAW OFFICES OF MARK S. SMITH	
26	By: Marchite	
27	DANIEL BERMAN MARK S. SMITH	

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Case 1:06-mj-00031 Document 52

Filed 01/31/2007 Page 5 of 17

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October 4, 2006

VIA E-MAIL, FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL:

(671) 472-7215

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P.O. Box 501969, Saipan MP 96950, 1969

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Fax: (670) 234-5683

E-mail: odb.law@Saipan.com

Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Office of the United States Attorney 108 Hernan Cortes Avenue, Suite 500 Hagåtña, Guan 96910

Re: F/V Marshalls No. 201

Dear Mikel,

In response to your letter dated October 2, 2006, I believe it best to memorialize in letter form my client's previous e-mails and in addition offer some modifications. The U.S. should understand that while my client is not in a position to post a multi-million bond for the release of the F/V Marshalls No. 201 in the foreseeable future, the client does now offer to post a \$1.0 million bond to substitute for the vessel.

The officers and crew from the F/V Marshalls No. 201 are not instructed to stay or leave the vessel in order to assist in its operation and maintenance after formal arrest. Despite the absence of instruction from my client, I understand that some crew will voluntarily accept a U.S. offer for employment. The technical difficulties, maintenance and cost together with the responsibility for the vessel will be transferred to the U.S. upon formal arrest and seizure of the Marshalls No. 201. A complete inventory list of the vessel is expected and said inventory is requested to be provided to my client as soon as possible¹. My clients are prepared for the peaceful and orderly transition of the vessel to the custody of the U.S. upon receipt of formal arrest orders or related law enforcement command.

From review of your October 2, 2006, it is difficult to know if you heard what Mr. Koo personally appeared before you to explain. First, he made a personal apology to

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Please provide us a property receipt for your agent Capt. Unterburg's removal of the vessel's laptop computer and weather/fax computer on October 2, 2004. When the Coast Guard removed other valuable navigation equipment, they were professional and provided receipts for the seized gear.

Letter to Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Re: F/V Marshalls no. 201 October 4, 2006 Page 2

you, the NOAA representatives and the U.S. Government. Second, he had offered to pay a \$1.04 million cash fine. This offer to pay a cash fine encompassed all eight violations asserted under the Magnuson Act at the maximum rate of \$130,000.00 per violation. Four, my client offered to pay for remedial measures in future fishing operations, a repeat of what was offered on April 13, 2006 to the U.S. Government (which has been unfortunately not accepted up until October 2006). Last, my client offered the fish catch value estimated by USG at \$500,000.00.

Mr. Koo expressed his concern that it may be improvident for the most wealthy and ornnipotent nation of the world to selectively enforce the furthest extreme line of its EEZ against only my client. Mr. Koo attempted to articulate in a foreign language, his belief that the U.S. was in a state of over reaction in seeking to make a future example of my client in establishing a world record setting fine for fishing violations.

No one of my clients disagree that the U.S. is wrong to enforce their rights in their own EEZ, nor, that the Marshalls No. 201 was arrested (by a distance of 1 or 2 miles at most) inside the U.S. Government's Code of Federal Regulations - defined coordinates for the location of U.S. EEZ around Howland and Baker Islands. But, no one in the US or NOAA seems to take responsibility for the omissions and deficiencies of the only publicly available chart of the location of the U.S. EEZ boundary around Howland and Baker Islands. This is known as the 3rd Revision July 2001, Department of Ocean Affairs Map styled "Claimed and Potential Maritime Zones on the Central and South Pacific" ("DOA Chart"). This particular EEZ line is not settled by final agreement or treaty with the Kiribati Islands.

You are correct that my client denies being "fully aware of the line" and intentionally poaching within it. The only EEZ line available to my client's Captain was the DOA Chart, which is a line of approximately a 20 mile band width. The US best case coordinates for the location of the vessel and location of the U.S. EEZ line puts the vessel at no more than one to two miles inside the line. Simply look at the past 14 year history of my clients fishing industry. No other example of entry by my client's vessels into the US EEZ and taking a set of fish exists, but for this case where the US watched and waited, and declined to implement offered remedial measures that would have warned the Marshalls No. 201 of the CFR-defined coordinates and the line that connects it. The summary of all the other allegations against my clients are FAD's let loose to float in the water, and "gear out" when traveling through the U.S. EEZ.

My client is not oblivious, as you argue, to the previous instance of their payment of a \$50,000.00 fine for the Niuguini No. 103 floating FAD violation. This fine should have been a far lesser sum as a first offense. Because the US did not disclose

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Letter to Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Re: F/V Marshalls no. 201 October 4, 2006 Page 3

NOAA's September 1989 Penalty Schedule, my then unrepresented client wished to make immediate peace and avoid any disputes with the US. Review of the then penalty Schedule should have made clear that alleged violation was equal to more than \$10,000.00.

That Niuguini No. 103 FAD like all other the FAD alleged violations, to my knowledge, were FAD's released in international waters or waters where my clients had the right to fish. Currents, winds and weather move the unfettered FADs around the waters after they are released. No court cases nor published legal opinion declares that the release of a FAD that accidentally travels through U.S. EEZ waters is the equivalent of intentional fishing, as defined by the Magnuson Act

On or about September 7, 2006, the U.S. claims that my clients committed multiple violations of U.S. fishing laws. But, over three weeks of time have passed, and the US has still failed to provide to us the evidence, coordinates, photographs and proof regarding these further fishing violations in support of broad accusations against the Koos No. 101, 107 and 108 vessels fishing in the U.S. waters. We have repeatedly asked for, but been denied, any review or access to this new proof upon which NOAA asserts that \$36 million may be owed to the US and that my client's failure to pay the multi-millions of dollars demanded in penalties is cause for forfeiture of as many as 4 purse seine vessels.

I look forward to working with you in the near future to minimize the problems with the arrest and seizure of the F/V Marshalls No. 201, its officers and crew.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Very truly yours

Daniel J. Berman

BERMAN O'CONNOR & MANN

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October 13, 2006

<u>VIA E-MAIL, FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL:</u> (671) 472-7215

Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Office of the United States Attorney 108 Hernan Cortes Avenue, Suite 500 Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Marshalls No. 201 Return of Instruments and Equipment

Dear Mikel:

SAIPAN OFFICE

Second Floor, Nauru Building

P.O. Box 501969, Saipan MP 96950-1969

Telephone: (670) 234-5684/5

Fax: (670) 234-5683

E-mail: odb.law@Saipan.com

I am writing to follow up on our discussion late October 12, 2006 with respect to the return of the instruments and navigation equipment necessary for the operation of the vessel Marshalls No. 201. Pursuant to the posted bond and order to release the vessel, I amicably request that the instruments and equipment for navigation and fishing be returned to the vessel Marshalls No. 201 as soon as possible. Please work with me to identify the most expedient means of transport and return of the below equipment for the Marshalls No. 201. These instruments and equipment may be divided into two (2) categories and include the following:

A. <u>Necessary to Navigate And Fish.</u>

- 1. Furuno GPS Navigator, GP-90, Serial No. 4400-7672, dated September 14, 2006, Tag No. 009.
- 2. Furuno GPS Navigator, Serial No. 4400-0450, dated September 20, 2006, Seized Property Receipt No. 30549.
- 3. Two lap top computers, VMS programmed for broadcast signal and communication with FFA, necessary to fishing. Dated October 2, 2006. See, Letter D. Berman to M. Schwab, dated October 4, 2006, attached.

Letter to Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Re: F/V Marshalls No. 201

October 13, 2006 Page 2

- 4. Two color plotter memory cards, No. B5XX.0081 Class S*, No. B5XX.0081 Class G, dated September 20, 2006, Seized Property Receipt No. 30540.
- 5. Two color plotter memory cards, No. B7B5.0110, No. B5XX.0081, dated September 20, 2006, Seized Property Receipt No. 30541.
- 6. South Pacific Regional Purse Seine Log Sheet, dated September 13, 2006, Tag No. 06-028-001.
- 7. Claim to Potential Maritime Zones chart, Second Revision, March 1995, dated September 13, 2006, Tag No. 06-028-005.
- 8. Marshalls No. 201 Ship's Log Book, estimated value \$35.00. September 13, 2006. Tag No. 06-028-004.

B. Ship's Logs and Documents.

- 9. Marshalls No. 201 fish hold layout / log. Dated September 13, 2006. Tag No. 06-028-002.
- 10. Brown Engineering Log Book "NiuGini_.__" on the cover. Dated September 13, 2006. Tag No. 06-028-008.
- 11. Koo's Fishing Company Ltd. Engineering log book. Blue in color. Dated September 13, 2006. Tag No. 06-028-007.
- 12. Tuvalu to Palmyra Atoll. No. 2031 o.r., Nautical Chart, dated September 13, 2006. Tag No. 06-028-006.
- 13. Two (2) FAD, Green Notebook. Dated September 20, 2006. Tag No. 30538.
- 14. Koo's 106, Blue Log Book. Dated September 20, 2006. Seized Property Receipt No. 30539.
- 15. Green Notebook. Dated September 20, 2006. Seized Property Receipt No. 27069.

Letter to Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Re: F/V Marshalls No. 201 October 13, 2006 Page 3

16. Fishing Log Sheets. Dated September 20, 2006. Seized Property Receipt No. 30542.

Please advise me at your earliest convenience regarding the means and estimated date of return of the above Marshalls No. 201 property. I look forward to hearing from you and working together in the near future.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Berman

Attachments: Copies of Evidence Receipts and Tags

D. Berman Letter October 4, 2002

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BERMAN O'CONNOR & MANN

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October 4, 2006

<u>VIA E-MAIL, FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL:</u> (671) 472-7215

Mikel W. Schwab, Esq. Office of the United States Attorney 108 Hernan Cortes Avenue, Suite 500 Hagåtña, Guam 96910 (3)

Re: F/V Marshalls No. 201

Dear Mikel,

SAIPAN OFFICE

Second Floor, Nauru Building

P.O. Box 501969, Saipan MP 96950 1969

Telephone: (670) 234-5684/5

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Please provide us a property receipt for your agent Capt. Unterburg's removal of the vessel's laptop computer and weather/fax computer on October 2, 2004. When the Coast Guard removed other valuable navigation equipment, they were professional and provided receipts for the seized gear.

DATE (Day, Month, Year) 6-018-00

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DESCRIPTION (Include condition and value)

MARSHALLS 201 SHIPS BOOK. EST VALUE OF LO6 \$35

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DESCRIPTION (Include condition and value)

TURENTO PALMYPA ATOLL

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SEIZED PROPERTY RECEIPT	SEIZED PROPERTY RECEIPT
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	Blue Log Book
John Hanghey	John Bayky
THORIZED OFFICER SIGNATURE	AUTHÓRÍZED OFFICER SONATURE
DAA FORM 88-86 (11-89)	NOAA FORM 88-86 (11-89)
SEIZED PROPERTY RECEIPT 30542 10 20 06 10 CLEIS) SEIZED: FISHING Log	SEIZED PROPERTY RECEIPT (15) NO. 27069 DATE: 9/26/06 ARTICLEISI SEIZED: GREEN Note
SHEETS	Book
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